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The Organized Farmer

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership and financing is still one of the main problems facing our farm union leaders. According to receipts up to the end of February, membership in the F.U.A. is down this year in all districts—41 percent below the total figure of last year. With the advent of warmer weather now, it may be possible to contact many prospective members who could not be reached before. Our membership ranks could be swelled tremendously before spring work starts if those who have canvassing left to do can get at it within the next few weeks.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

President's Report

Immediately following the mid-winter board meeting I went to Winnipeg to discuss the box-car situation with Mr. Milner, the Transport Controller. Stuart Thiesson of Saskatchewan and Steve Miller of Manitoba accompanied me on this delegation. We had a lengthy discussion of the whole situation with Mr. Milner, who was most co-operative in giving us a clear picture of the whole situation. Briefly, it is expected that all terminals will be full to working capacity by the time navigation opens. After navigation opens there will be a tremendous amount of grain to move that will tax transportation and handling facilities to the limit. Plans are being made to handle this rush and it is hoped that there will be no slip-ups. We will continue to watch this whole situation very closely.

From Winnipeg I went to Ottawa for the annual presentation of the Interprovincial Council to the Federal Cabinet. A report on this trip is given in another section of this paper. I am convinced that we farm union people are not spending enough time in Ottawa acquainting those in authority with the thinking of farm people. In all such discussions I am also impressed with the necessity of being sure of our facts. One mis-statement can ruin a whole presentation. The same thing must be borne in mind when preparing resolutions for our own convention.

When in Ottawa, I attended a meeting of the Farmer-Labour Economic Council. Because of the forthcoming amalgamation of the two labor groups no definite action could be taken at this meeting. Assuming continuing support from labour people, tentative plans for a permanent secretariat were made. By our standards, this will involve a rather heavy expenditure on our part. When more details are available we hope to acquaint the membership with the whole proposal for discussion and direction.

I was able to attend the Chamber of Commerce short course at Calgary and addressed those present on "A Cropping Plan" for 1956. At the banquet of the Alberta Poultry Producers I spoke on the proposed Provincial Farm Loan Board.

Our membership now stands at about 36,000. We know that a great many people have not yet been canvassed. We know that the weather is largely responsible for this state of affairs. It has not only made it physically impossible for us to visit people but it has left everyone so busy that they have not had much time even when it was possible to travel. Nevertheless, we need all the members we can possibly get. We need them primarily for the ideas they can

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contribute to our organization, but also for the prestige they give us and the money they contribute.

I am sure we can depend on the canvassers to do the very best they can but I fear they will not have time to do all that should be done. I therefore appeal to individual members to pitch in and give them a hand. If you can't offer your services to your local for a day, then contact your neighbour who has not yet joined. Surely you could bring in one more member. If everyone could do that we would be over the top.

Because of the very drastic drop in income it has been necessary to curtail expenditures and projects as much as possible. We do not want to retrench to the point where our effectiveness will be lost but we are not in a position to undertake any new projects. If we can get a further increase in membership and can continue to hold down expenditures I am hopeful we will break even on the year's operations. In this connection you will note that we have had to discontinue the radio broadcasts as we felt that the money could be used to better advantage in other ways.

At the present time we are working on presentations to be made to the Board of Grain Commissioners and the Canadian Wheat Board, as well as on further representations to the federal government. The grain situation is being watched closely. We have been making more or less continuous representations to the provincial government now that the house is in session. Some progress is being made on the adoption of some points of our provincial program. When the session is complete we will give you a full report on this.

Favorable Attitude Shown Ottawa Delegation

by A. W. PLATT

The Inter-provincial Farm Union Council presented its annual brief to the Government of Canada on February 16. F.W.U.A. president, Mrs. C. T. Armstrong and myself represented Alberta, while IFUC chairman, Jake Schulz, led the delegation. In addition to formal presentation of our brief to the cabinet, the delegation met with Liberal, Conservative, CCF and Social Credit members of parliament. At these meetings our brief was discussed and we pointed out present problems in agriculture and actions we thought would help the situation. I remained in Ottawa for several days after the meeting to discuss these and other problems peculiar to Alberta with members of the cabinet, private members and senators.

We had a most courteous hearing on all occasions. People gave freely of their time and did everything possible to fit appointments into the limited time we had at our disposal. I heard no one attempt to belittle the problems of agriculture nor the recommendations we made. However, in various ways one received certain impressions and on the basis of these purely personal views I will sum up what action we might expect on our Emergency Program.

Domestic Price

It is unlikely the government will introduce a two-price system for selling wheat. Support for the proposal is growing but in the opinion of many it would be unwise to start with wheat. They argue that we must get a two-price system for our other products sold in much larger quantity on the domestic market and when the principle is accepted it will then be relatively easy to extend it to grain also.

In my opinion, it is likely that the floor price or, as it is called, the initial price on grain will be changed next year. There has been pressure in certain quarters to have this lowered in expectation that grain prices may tend to fall over the next crop year. However, recent events have indicated this may not take place. In any case, further representations will be made on the matter nearer the time when next year's initial prices are set.

High Return

You will have noticed by press dispatches that the government has agreed to assume at least part of the cost of all storage by the Wheat Board. This move has met considerable opposition in various parts of Canada, but when the bill is brought before the house it is doubtful if any serious opposition will be raised. There is no doubt that this action was taken because of continued representation from the farm unions. It will mean a total saving for

each farmer in Western Canada of almost \$145. This is a fair return on your union fees.

Cash Advances

With regard to cash advances on farm-stored grain, you are all aware of the bank loan plan that was ratified by parliament just recently; the plan that has been in effect since last fall. You will also know that it has run into serious objection on the part of opposition groups in parliament, the press and a good number of farm organizations. There is no doubt that the government's mind will remain unchanged on the matter this year, but should conditions make it necessary for cash advances again next fall, I feel reasonably certain we can persuade the government to introduce a scheme more in line with the thinking of the farm unions.

The interim payments of 10 cents per bushel on the 1954-55 wheat crop will be in the hands of farmers before spring. It is most unfortunate that this cannot be made on the lower grades. In order to sell grades on the domestic or foreign markets, it became necessary to reduce prices substantially, with the result that there will not likely be further substantial payments on these grades.

Action Predicted

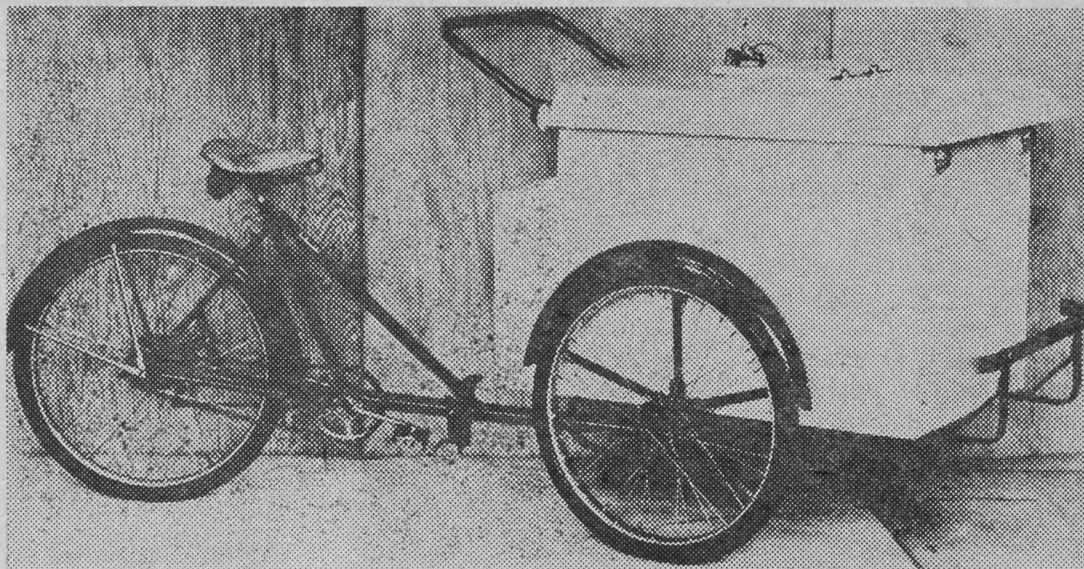
Some of the private members on the government side of the house as well as other people in Ottawa evinced considerable interest in the idea of a food bank. I have no doubt that the government is considering this matter quite seriously and we have been asked to clarify certain points in our proposal and to make whatever suggestions we can as to just how such a food bank might be worked out to the best advantage of all. I wouldn't want to give the impression we are likely to gain the establishment of a food bank during this session of the house, but I do feel it is receiving serious consideration and prospects are good and we will get some action, perhaps in a year from now.

Hog Prices

Regarding our request that the floor price on hogs be equalized through out Canada, I must report that this received no support whatsoever, either from the government or from other people with whom I spoke. They feel there is a normal spread in price between various points and this must be recognized in setting floor prices. Commenting on hog prices, authorities in the department of agriculture felt that hogs would not reach floor price level in the foreseeable future. They are quite optimistic that the market will be able to absorb all the hogs coming on in the next year, with the

(Continued on Page 5)

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Locals Are Union's Life Line

By Mrs. Pansy Molen, F.U.A. Secretary

The local is the most important unit in the entire Farmers' Union. Here is where the union begins, here is where the strength of the union lies, providing you have a local that is alive.

It is in the locals where discussions go on, where members get basic information and where they take action on their problems as farmers. Here is where farmers learn to hold orderly meetings, where they weigh the issues and pass resolutions, where they learn to speak for themselves and where they make intelligent expression a habit.

The local meeting is a place where neighbors can come together and see one another. Before the meeting begins and after it ends, there's always a chance to exchange news — learn what's going on around the community.

To make these local meetings interesting — do something, have some activity. Members have it within their power to have lively, interesting meetings or a dead local. It is a good idea for officers to have a little meeting and plan the next meeting before hand.

It is better to have a purpose for your meet-

ing. What is the most important thing you have to consider? You can have a featured speaker on an important current subject. Educational films and slides are a good idea. Many members would like to hear a report on a convention, meeting of a community organization, or someone's holiday trip.

Children in the local can put on a program — dramatize a farm problem, sing songs, play some instrument and such. Everyone loves to see and hear the youngsters. After the meeting there is usually the cup of coffee and a cookie or two. You can do a lot of interesting talking over a cup of coffee.

To sum up how to get members out: 1. Plan an interesting meeting. 2. Tell all the members by mail, by phone, by direct contact. 3. Try to involve many people, include the juniors and give the women a chance. 4. Go ahead and do something.

Always remember this. Don't drag your meetings out until midnight and later. Begin on time, keep things moving and close before everyone becomes overly weary with the late hour. Then they'll come back for more another time.

Local meetings can be fun — an active group does it.

OTTAWA DELEGATION

(Continued from Page 3)

volume being not burdensome enough to lower prices to the floor level.

Favor Parity

We found no opposition to the principle of parity prices from groups with whom we discussed the matter. Members of parliament of all political parties repeatedly expressed the opinion that parity price was the solution to farm problems. However, there was a difference of opinion as to how this could be put into effect in a practical manner. It was suggested on more than one occasion that possibilities offered by marketing boards were very great and could provide the most practical solution to this question.

More Research

Results of this trip may be somewhat disappointing. I found continuous objection that certain things "couldn't be done" a little tiresome at times. Nevertheless, we will continue to make representation on these matters and will try to strengthen our argument and work out many of the difficulties which lie in the way of implementing some of these schemes. I am becoming more and more convinced that we will have to spell out these programs more in detail and work out means of overcoming obvious difficulties involved before we can expect governments to take sufficient action on them.

Haslam Honored for Long Service

How many persons can lay claim to more than 40 years' service as secretary of a farm group? If there are any, they could rank alongside P. J. Haslam of Vulcan, who has been secretary of a farm union local at that point since pioneer days.

In tribute to his many years of work in that capacity, members of Berrywater F.U.A. and F.W.U.A. locals presented Mr. Haslam with a handsome leather travelling bag at a meeting in Vulcan, February 22.

Extending recognition to others who have given valuable service, the local also presented a TV lamp to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith. For the past number of years, the Smiths have made available their home for the annual Christmas party sponsored by Berrywater Locals.

Discuss Homes

During the business portion of the women's meeting, Mrs. Olive Douglass informed the gathering that Hon. R. D. Jorgenson, minister of public welfare, is anxious to address a meeting in the town on old folks' homes. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for such a meeting, to be held after the legislature prorogues.

Hugh Michael, district agriculturist for the area, is to address the F.U.A. local's next meeting, March 28, with a view to forming a 4-H club in the community.

Government Members Declare Stand At Meet With F.U.A. Executive

As a follow-up measure to recent F.U.A. submissions to the provincial government, the union executive met with cabinet ministers and members on the government side at an evening session in the board room of the Farm Union building on Wednesday, March 7. Some 22 government members were present to give their views on a number of more urgent union proposals, as contained in a brief presented point by point.

Farmers and Hunters

In deploring the rather helpless position of farmers in dealing with hunters who violate ordinary property rights and ethics, the union executive wanted to know when action could be expected to clear up the situation. Three of the honorable ministers commented that the situation was a touchy one, but felt sure that satisfactory treatment would be forthcoming when proposed changes now being drafted in the act come before the legislature during the current session.

Rural Telephones

No immediate prospect of financial assistance for rural telephone expansion was held out by government spokesmen. Replying to the union's oft-repeated proposal that money be made available under a revolving fund, cabinet ministers explained that this would not be feasible at the present time. A large number of projects are being currently aided through the fund, they said, taxing it almost to the limit. When the backlog of these finally gets caught up, the government intends to introduce a full fledged program presently being worked out in stages. It was pointed out that trained personnel backed by extensive research facilities are already at the disposal of rural groups planning new construction or expansion. As a result, cash outlay in mutual projects can be materially cut.

Farm Loan Plan

While looking favorably upon the union's suggestion of setting up a provincial farm loan board, government leaders explained that this also could not be implemented at the present time because of the existing burden of financing. However, the union's proposal was regarded as one of the soundest outlines received in

that respect to date. In recognizing the need for such a scheme, the members felt that the lack of adequate screening and supervision under existing programs across the country were major shortcomings and any future provincial farm loan plan would have to be carefully tailored to meet those two conditions.

Car Insurance

With regard to bringing in cheaper car insurance, government members and ministers were emphatic that they did not want to see any form of compulsory insurance. They favored a more flexible plan which would induce most owners to insure. They will await with keenest interest the pending report of the joint A.F.A.-F.U.A. committee on car insurance, stated the government group.

Elections Act

Private members at the meeting, with the exception of a few had little or nothing to say on the foregoing questions but became more voluble when discussion arose on proposed amendments to the Alberta Elections Act. Union spokesmen contended that the move to abolish preferential balloting in provincial elections was both ill-timed and unadvisable. They based their argument on the assumption that changes under consideration had not been thrown out for public scrutiny in time for a general assessment and urged legislators to withhold action until next year's session at least. Speaking in support of the changes, private members and cabinet ministers cited the high percentage of spoiled ballots in the last provincial election as one of the main reasons why they wanted to revert to the old X-system of voting. In addition, they declared that numerous meetings of their constituents had advocated the change and members felt bound to carry it out, regardless of their personal views.

INCOME TAX SERVICE

April 30 is income tax deadline. Farmers should file annual returns, whether they fall into a taxable category or not. Failing to do so may bring a good deal of difficulty in future years, perhaps requiring that a net worth statement be filed. It is far easier to complete

returns in the current year when all information is at hand.

As a service to members, the Farmers' Union of Alberta has arranged with B. C. Oliver of Edmonton to prepare returns for members. Those wishing to take advantage of the service are requested to contact Mr. Oliver by mail or in person at Room 614, Northern Hardware Building, Edmonton.

Rates are based on the amount of work involved and the type of return which is being filed. In cases where the farmer keeps record books, the rate is \$10 for one year's return. Cost of preparing a five-year net worth statement is \$45, other income tax work at \$4.50 per hour.

PRICE SUPPORTS, FREE TRADE FOUND TO BE IN CONFLICT

(From Farm Forum Guide)

Can farmers have freer trade and price supports too? Price support provide farmers with some degree of protection, although the levels of the supports vary. They have been considerably higher in the United States than in Canada.

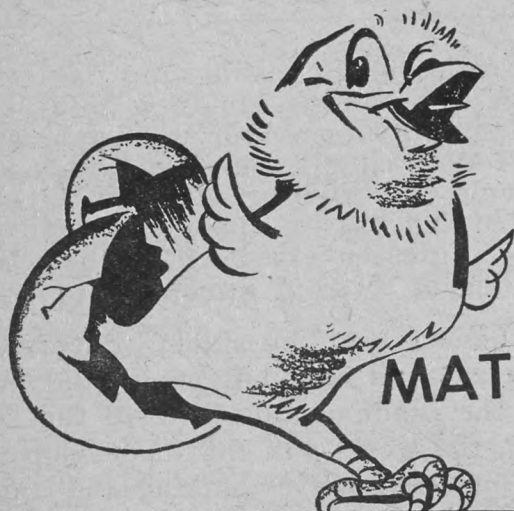
The contradictions in the two policies are evident

in the American situation. Conflict arose between international obligations under the GATT and domestic legislation requiring restrictions on imports interfering with the price support program. Last spring the United States obtained special permission to set aside certain obligations under GATT so that it would be free to restrict agricultural imports when necessary.

The Canadian delegation voted against granting the concession to the United States, stating, "Action which the United States can take under this waiver to restrict our exports could serve to unbalance our tariff bargain with that country... This important country has now been relieved of its formal obligations under GATT in the agricultural field." The practical effect of the waiver in restricting Canadian and other farm imports will of course depend on American policy. There is provision for an annual review of the question.

In Canada too import of farm products under price supports can be controlled by the government, but this provision has not been extensively used. However, farm organizations have occasionally requested that the federal government use its authority to limit certain agricultural imports.

Price supports alone do not permit countries to make special exceptions to their commitments under the GATT.



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EDITORIALS

MATTERS FOR THE MIND

Education Week, an annual observance across Canada, has again come and gone. What have parents seen as they gazed through the show window of our modern educational system?

Though an overall atmosphere of "marching on with the times" pervades our classrooms, the more discerning parents who visited their schools for a first-hand look may have noticed some disquieting trends. In more recent years, an "out-with-the-old" fever has gripped educational authorities both here and in the United States. With fervent enthusiasm they have supplanted the old system and its shortcomings with an almost entirely new program. The result has been not altogether good, in many respects.

"Individual expression", through "enterprise" methods was thought to hold the key

to fruitful learning. In following this concept, discipline has become almost a thing of the past. Many classrooms during certain periods resemble more closely a quiz mob than a body of students. True, sluggish minds have been stimulated and passive attitudes geared to action, to a greater extent, but where is the channelling or sense of direction?

We believe that the axiom of learning by doing is a sound one, but when students are lacking the fundamentals then all the "enterprise" in the world will fail to develop adults capable of constructive thinking and applying action based on sound judgment.

Young people of today are being encouraged, even in their formative years during elementary study, toward specialization in various prescribed topics. Could they not be more profitably engaged in gaining some of the basic knowledge once supplied by the old system? To illustrate a point, there is the story of a young lad who announced to his mother: "Maw, I larned to write in school today." When asked what he had written, the lad replied: "Dunno; haven't larned to read yet."

—C.C.S.

CHANGES IN ELECTION ACT

Our provincial legislature is considering changes in the Election Act. These changes are, to say the least, far reaching and of doubtful value. One change that we feel is of particular importance is the proposal to do away with preferential balloting and go back to the X-system of voting.

Two arguments are advanced in support of this proposal. The first is that there are too many spoiled ballots when numbers are used and the second is that the people are asking for this change.

In regard to spoiled ballots, there are many reasons why a ballot may be spoiled, and marking an X instead of a number is only one of them. It seems to me the statement that rural people are not sufficiently intelligent to mark their ballots with numbers for the candidate of their choice is an unjustified reflection upon these people. If there are people who, through lack of interest or lack of intelligence, cannot grasp this simple system then we may wonder as to the value of their vote regardless of how it is marked. Surely if we have a problem of spoiled ballots the obvious course of action is to instruct our voters more carefully and not to do away with the system.

Members of the legislature say that people are demanding this change. We do not know whether any large body of people are or are not demanding the change; but if they are, we haven't heard about it. I think it significant that, to the best of my knowledge, no resolution has ever come forward from even one F.U.A. local asking for this change.

When an election has just been held why the rush to change the election act? Surely the matter could be tabled until the people have had a chance to discuss the question and make their wishes known.—A.W.P.

DRYSDALE TOP HOG SHIPPER

(From Science And The Land)

John Drysdale of Vegreville shipped 66.6 per cent Grade A hogs in 1955 to top 80 competitors in the Swine Quality Competition conducted by the Vegreville Co-op Livestock Shipping Association. W. N. Pidruchney, district agriculturist for the area, reports that average for the eighty shippers was 31.8 per cent — well above the provincial average of 19 per cent.

Mr. Drysdale was followed closely by Andrew Wyllie who shipped 64.6 per cent Grade A's and Art Schmidt who shipped 64.2 per cent Grade A hogs. A total of 4,000 hogs were marketed through the competition and almost 1,300 of them Grade A. These figures are based on the grading results of all shipments for the year from farmers of the Vegreville Co-op Livestock shipping Association in

the Swine Quality Competition. Each shipper had to market a minimum of 25 hogs in order to qualify for the competition.

Mr. Pidruchney reports that this sort of survey is most useful in a district and he would be interested in seeing other districts conduct similar surveys or competitions.

Broader Pattern

Percentage of Grade A hogs marketed in 1955 was less than one per cent increase over the 1954 figure which was the lowest figure in the last five years. On the other hand, the percentage of Grade C hogs marketed in Alberta increased by over one per cent. R. E. English, Alberta's Agricultural Statistician, has recently released the summary of Alberta hog carcasses graded in 1955. Only 19 per cent of the hogs marketed in the past year were Grade A's and 15 per cent were Grade C. (1954 figures were 18.2 per cent Grade A and 13.9 per cent C's)

The figures from 1951 to 1955 (inclusive) show a steady decrease in the percentage of A's marketed (with the exception of 1955) and a steady increase in the number of C's marketed.

The breakdown according to crop districts is an interesting one. Mr. English points out that district 12 — west of Sangudo down to the Saskatchewan River including Edson and Mayerthorpe scored the highest percentage of Grade A hogs in the province. Twenty-three per cent of the hog marketings from this area were Grade A's. However, the total marketings were only 16,325 hogs.

District 8, west of Camrose including Wetaskiwin, Ponoka, Lacombe, Stettler and Red Deer, marketed more hogs than any other area in the province—280,252 — of which only 18.9 per cent were Grade A's. This area marketed the largest number of grade C hogs, 45,102 or 16.1 per cent.

Vegreville east to the border including Willingdon, Myrnam, Vermilion and Ryley (district 10) marketed 45,867 Grade A hogs which was 21 per cent of total marketings. Twelve per cent or 28,942 of the marketings in the area were Grade C. It is interesting to note here that figures submitted by W. M. Pidruchney, District Agriculturist for the Vegreville district points out that shippers patronizing the Vegreville Co-op Livestock Shipping Association marketed 31.8 per cent Grade A hogs. This one community's effort has no doubt helped raise the percentage figure for district 10.

District 16 including Berwyn, Spirit River and Grande Prairie marketed 22.5 per cent Grade A hogs and 12.8 per cent C's. District 3, Brooks and Medicine Hat, marketed only 17.1 per cent A hogs and 14.7 per cent C's. District 2, Cardston, Claresholm and Lethbridge had 15.1 per cent Grade A's and 18.3 per cent C's. Olds, Calgary and Strathmore area, district 6 marketed 14.5 per cent Grade A hogs and 15.9 per cent Grade C's while Sangudo, Edmonton and Leduc areas, district 11, marketed 18.7 per cent A's and 13.8 per cent C's.

ALBERTA FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

Geneva Wheat Marketing Conference

Mr. Roy C. Marler, president of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, who is presently attending the United Nations Wheat Conference at Geneva, provides us with the following paragraphs taken from official news releases from the Conference:

"At the second session of the United Nations Wheat Conference, now being held in Geneva, delegates of the importing countries who are members of the International Wheat Council, having considered the present world wheat position, agreed that the current and also the previous International Wheat Agreement had promoted and maintained a degree of stability in the world trade in wheat. These delegates felt satisfied that measures designed to promote a continuance of stability, on which largely depend an adequate supply of wheat in future years, are desirable in the interests of both producers and consumers and that this stability can best be secured through the international co-operation of producer-exporting countries and consumer-importing countries, the latter including many who because they are themselves producers on a considerable scale are doubly interested.

"In view of these considerations delegates, while regretting the decision of the United Kingdom to remain outside an international wheat agreement of the present kind, decided to proceed with negotiations with the six exporting countries represented at the Conference, namely Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Sweden and the United States of America, in the hope that it will be possible to conclude an agreement mutually satisfactory in all respects."

It is true the above release does not give any indication as to what progress is being made at the conference. It does, however, suggest the present and previous agreement have been worthwhile, and that every effort will be made to establish a third satisfactory International Wheat Agreement.

During the past year the advisory committee to the Canadian Wheat Board was revised, making it representative only of producers. The present committee members are:

Mr. J. E. Brownlee, President, United Grain Growers Limited;

Mr. W. J. Parker, President, Manitoba Wheat Pool.

Mr. J. H. Wesson, President, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool;

Mr. Ben S. Plumer, President, Alberta Wheat Pool;

Mr. C. P. Hansen, President, Saskatchewan Farmers' Union;

Mr. Roy C. Marler, President, Alberta Federation of Agriculture. This full committee were taken to the Geneva Conference as producer advisors to the Canadian delegation. In this capacity their responsibility is undoubtedly an important one.

Farm people, through their respective organizations, have expressed their support of the principle of the International Wheat Agreements. The responsibility now rests with the Canadian delegation and its advisory committee to endeavour to negotiate terms for a new agreement which would be considered satisfactory to the Canadian producer.

(Advertisement)

Farm Women's Union of Alberta

F.W.U.A Hi-Lights

A CORRECTION — In the January 1956 issue of The Organized Farmer an error was made in the Viking South FWUA No. 807 Hi-light, which should read "A nice donation was given the Alice Hill F.U.A. by the Viking South FWUA towards the expense of sending a delegate to the convention."

* * *

Edwell FWUA Local No. 1019 (Penhold), at their January meeting, discussed the matter of compulsory membership but the general feeling of the group was against it. Mrs. Carter has been asked to outline the accomplishments of the FWUA at the May meeting.

* * *

Jenny Lind FWUA No. 1305 (Scandia) after discussion have decided to give support and contribute towards the Brooks Fair this year, since they have held successful county fairs in other years.

* * *

The annual meeting of Cork FWUA No. 402 was held on Feb. 1 and all new officers were elected.

At the last meeting of Hairy Hill FWUA No. 618 it was decided that a donation of \$25 will be given to the three top winners of the Hairy Hill 4-H Calf Club Achievement Day. A display of handcraft will be held early in November and the best articles will be taken to the annual convention.

* * *

Brooks FWUA No. 1302 held considerable discussion re compulsory membership but plan further study of the matter. The matter of reviving the County Fair at Brooks is also under discussion.

* * *

Opinion of the Bonanza FWUA No. 101 on compulsory membership is unfavorable. It was suggested that "Life Membership" should be available.

* * *

Spruceville FWUA No. 912 plan to invite six neighboring locals to hear a speaker on "Mental Health" for the July meeting.

* * *

Pelican FWUA No. 707 (Edgerton) plan to ask if Mrs. Berry from Australia can come to the Women's Conference (District No. 7).

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It is time to be thinking about seed treatments. Losses to farmers from wireworm damage and diseases such as smut, amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in Western Canada. This loss is not necessary. Proper seed treatment can prevent it.

U.F.A. Co-op handles the nationally known Green Cross products. Green Cross Seed Grain Dressings provide effective control for Canadian growers. Here is what they are:

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Controls seed-borne diseases of wheat, oats, barley, rye, and protects flax from seed decay and damping-off.

BUNT-NO-MORE —

A non-mercurial product for the control of Stinking Smut or Bunt on **Wheat** only. It can be used **immediately** before planting or **months** before, whichever you prefer. It is to be used at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce per bushel of wheat.

50% LINDANE —

For the control of wireworms in wheat, coarse grain and sugar beets. Two ounces treat enough seed for one acre. Seed wheat should be treated one or two weeks before planting.

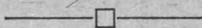
MERLANE — (dual treatment)

For the treatment of wireworms and seed-borne diseases in wheat, coarse grain, corn and beans. $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces treat enough seed to sow one acre of wheat or coarse grains. Should be applied as close to seeding time as possible.

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For the control of seed-borne diseases of wheat, coarse grain and flax. Is a mercurial seed disinfectant. Applied $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce per bushel on wheat, oats, barley and rye. $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces for flax.

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Comments on Organization and Membership

By W. G. Logan, F.U.A. Co-ordinator of Organization

Another membership drive is over. Unfortunately, blocked roads and unusually cold weather put a serious crimp in canvassing activities. Some snowbound areas will not be able to complete canvassing until the spring break-up comes.

Nevertheless, the time has come when we must appraise the results. Our total sign-up of 36,000 at the time of writing definitely indicates that we will not reach last year's total of approximately 62,000 members.

Many reasons have been advanced why this has happened. Two are most significant: first, that many farmers are short of cash, secondly, that farmers by and large are losing interest in the union.

In the case of dropping farm income, everything possible is being done to impress upon the 'powers that be' that the present situation cannot be allowed to continue. It might be noted that some measure of relief is now in sight.

With regard to the second, however, there is definitely something we ourselves can do to perk up membership interest. Perhaps part of the answer can be found by looking back over our local activities. Some locals have written that insufficient members came out to the pre-jubilee drive meeting for them to organize a canvass for renewals, let alone for new members. This is a sad state of affairs when so much can be gained by farmers working and sticking together.

What are the reasons? Let's ask ourselves a few questions. Can we lay all the blame on the individual member who does not come to meetings, or comes only once or twice and then stops? In all fairness, we cannot. In full recognition of the effort and time expended, I think that the fault also lies with those in responsible positions all through our union. This situation is understandable. In a fast growing organization such as ours there are bound to be gaps all along the line, and steps must be taken to fill them. In other words, we are undergoing "growing pains" and will continue so for some time.

I think it safe to say then, that part of our membership problem rests on local leadership. Have meetings been instructive and interesting . . . have they had punch . . . especially for new members? Are they following a well planned program, each member being given

a part, or do locals often meet for the sake of the record? How many locals have pushed all the load onto a hard working president or secretary, perhaps "Joe'd" into the job, some without any previous experience and no direction as to what is expected of them?

As a first step toward solving these problems, many of the district boards have scheduled, or held, district conferences. Specially trained men from the Extension Department of the University of Alberta help conduct proceedings in the hands of local secretaries, presidents and district officials at these gatherings.

Duncan Campbell, assistant director of extension, has provided us with the services of two well known men, S. O. Hillerud and Col. E. W. Cormack. They channel discussion on program planning, convenorship and parliamentary procedure, laying open to those in attendance the things that make an organization tick.

Divided sessions are held, with local presidents taking part in techniques of chairmanship, committee planning, preparing speeches, resolutions, etc. Secretaries deal with methods of meeting correspondence, drawing up agendas, presenting minutes, submission to meetings of correspondence and other material, handling publicity, banking, preparation of financial statements, etc.

At the close of the gatherings held to date, many in attendance have declared they were helped immensely by the topics discussed and praised the instructors for the way the work was handled.

Now that almost all the emergency meetings slated have been held, notices of convention workshops are being mailed out daily. We are pleased to see so many being held. While the workshops will be along the same lines as last year, an instructive supplement on union policy and sub-district affairs has been planned.

We cannot point out too strongly to the members that these are your own meetings. There are no speakers, no formality. Instructors are present to lend their services and give advice when needed. You learn by doing, by actual participation in the work. In this way we each add to the other's knowledge.

Marketing is part and parcel of the modern productive process, the part at the end that gives point and purpose to all that has gone before.

Monthly Letter from

Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited

Dear Friends:

Last month we gave you a breakdown on Canadian hog production and were going to follow it with a similar picture for cattle. However after reading correspondence in the February issue of your publication we thought it might be better to try to clear up some apparent misunderstandings concerning the A.L.C.

We should start with its organization, that is its foundation. Where does that begin? With its president, its executive, directorate or management?

The A.L.C. is co-operative in name and in fact. Its direction comes from groups of individual livestock producers, actual down to earth grass roots farmers. In many instances and districts those farmers organized and are using local co-operative livestock shipping associations. Many of these locals have long term records dating back for 30 years. Each local association is self-governing, its members appoint directors, its directorate carries out the requirements of the members. Regular and annual meetings are held and out of membership, delegates to the A.L.C. meetings are selected. Those delegates in turn elect the directorate of the A.L.C. and in the past have also made provision for delegate representation from areas in which local associations do not operate. There is therefore delegate representation from local co-operative shipping associations and from members-at-large, the latter, through direct consignment to A.L.C. sales agencies at Edmonton and Calgary, are members of the A.L.C.

Delegates receive their direction from their individual membership, carry these directions to the A.L.C. meetings and in fact that delegate representation did originally create the A.L.C. and have continued to formulate A.L.C. policy since its inception. In effect then, individual livestock producers, through collective action are the A.L.C.

Delegates to the A.L.C. annual meeting in July, 1954, among other matters, voted to press the Alberta Government for legislation enabling producers of farm products to establish marketing boards. They followed this with a similar resolution in July, 1955. Resolutions are always presented through recognized channels, copies are forwarded to all interested organizations. That action however established the policy of the A.L.C. in this regard and neither directorate or management have the right or the authority to deviate from that policy. In other words, policy is established by members and not by directorate or management. That is one of the democratic principles peculiar to co-operatives.

The matter of information to livestock producers was also discussed at the A.L.C. annual meeting in July, 1955 and this monthly letter is to some extent the outcome of that discussion. These are matters of record.

In the meantime the production and marketing of livestock continues from day to day and from week to week. It does not change because other than the established methods of marketing are under consideration. Production will continue and marketing is inevitable. The methods of marketing however remain in the hands of the producer.

Is it not logical to suppose that the centralization of volume in the hands of your local co-operatives, coupled with sales through a central, producer owned agency must be more effective than disposition through unorganized outlets?

Sincerely yours

GEO. WINKELAAR,
General Manager.

ALBERTA LIVESTOCK CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED.

(Advertisement)

MEN AND MACHINES

Conducted by W. J. (Bill) Harper

(Editor's Note: This month we introduce the first in a series of intended regular features having to do with farm machinery business in general. Mr. Harper, who will conduct the column, is a practical farmer and head of Canadian Co-operative Implements Ltd. in Alberta. The column is designed to present informational discourses of a non-promotional nature. Readers' comments will be appreciated)

Big Factor In Cost-Price Squeeze

In early days of farming on the prairies, machines were few and relatively simple. A plow, disc, harrows, drill, binder, mower, rake and wagon made up a fairly full line. A few ambitious farmers invested in threshing outfits, started operations early in September, threshed the whole neighborhood and finished (if the weather held) sometime in November.

The farmer's investment in machinery was, on the average, quite small. Horses, barns, harness and pasture land required a much larger capital outlay. Machines were mechanically simple, repair costs light.

This picture has completely changed over the last 30 years. Investment in machines and their operating cost is now the largest single expense on a modern farm.

The Saskatchewan Royal Commission on Agriculture and Rural Life has come up with some interesting figures on this subject. Their figures show that between 1926 and 1951 investment in land by Saskatchewan farmers increased by 40 percent. Investment in livestock increased by 100 percent, but machinery was up over 200 percent. Today, investment in machinery is far beyond this figure, probably around 300 percent of 1926.

What about the future? All signs point to still greater investment in farm machinery. Farms are steadily growing larger, while farm population is decreasing by about 1½ percent each year. Fewer people are operating larger farms, the continuing trend made possible by new types of machines and bigger capacity to enable one man to do more work.

This need for more machinery is a serious problem, particularly when it is realized that the price of machinery is steadily increasing, while the farmer's income is steadily falling.

STOCKMEN ASK FOR LABORATORY IN SOUTH

Nearly 1,000 members and visitors crowded into Fort MacLeod February 8 and 9 for the 60th annual convention of the Western Stock Growers' Association. It was here that the association was formed in 1896. The town's hotels, motels and homes were unable to accommodate the influx, and so arrangements were made to have the overflow sleep in two railway cars.

President Bert Hargraves, in reviewing 60 years of operations, commented that problems of early days — animal health, quarantines, embargos, brands and predators — were still current items. He recommended a sound promotional program and orderly marketing to tide the beef industry over a possible critical period in the near future.

Resolutions

Resolutions were passed favoring establishment of a pathological laboratory in the southern part of the province, imposing a five-cent levy on all cattle sold to finance a beef advertising and promotional program, holding off all bull sales. In other resolutions passed, the association asked the provincial government to assume a greater portion of vaccinating costs, restrict big game hunting and provide broader jurisdiction for owners and lessors of lands.

Speakers

Dr. L. W. McElroy, of Alberta university's animal science department, told the stockmen that the university is equipped to test samples of cereals, soils and forage for feed nutrients supplied. Interested parties were advised to contact their district agriculturists.

R. H. Painter, federal entomologist at Lethbridge, warned the gathering not to be misled by profound advertising on chemicals for stock. Lindane, Derris powder and DDT are still tops for "Bugs", he said.

Spectacular development in beef breeding for the future was forecast by Dr. R. T. Clark, of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Secretary E. A. Chisholm reported a current membership of 1,850 and a loss on 1955 operations of \$2,000. A new membership campaign was planned for immediate launching.

MARKET BOARD CAN ACHIEVE MANY OBJECTS

(From Farm Forum Guide)

Many sellers and a small number of buyers—this has long been the situation in farm marketing. The development of marketing boards has been an attempt on the part of farmers to reap the benefits of organization in marketing since it cannot be done in the field of production.

The chief purpose of marketing boards is to achieve higher or more stable returns to the producer. But the means which a board can use to do this are many—greater bargaining power through group action; economies in selling; advertising and research facilities; better information channelled back to the producer about supply and demand conditions. A marketing board can attempt to do more than bring a greater share of the consumer dollar back to the farmer.

There are several ways open to the farmer to attempt orderly marketing through organization:

- Voluntary marketing through a co-operative agency.

- Compulsory marketing through a producer board set up by the growers of the commodity under provincial legislation.

- Marketing through a government board.

Examples of all three types exist in Canada. Are there reasons why one form is more desirable for the handling of certain farm products?

Farm organizations in Canada are on record in favor of producer controlled boards. Farmers feel that it is usually better for growers to make final decisions about disposal of his product than for the government or private interests to do so. Dr. E. C. Hope, Canadian Federation of Agriculture economist, has commented about setting up a marketing board which might help to achieve more stability in hog production, "Perhaps a government marketing board could do this, but certainly at the present time the hog producers of Canada don't want to operate and manage the board themselves."

CYRE WINS RAFFLE

Bon Accord FUA secretary, Paul Dowhaniuk, reports that bitter weather and bad roads cut down expected attendance at their combined dance, basket social and raffle held in Bon Accord Community Hall Friday, February 10.

In spite of these setbacks, the jointly sponsored project of Bon Accord FUA and Willow Springs FWUA locals netted \$62.55.

Prizes were offered for the most attractive baskets, the competition being divided into senior ladies' grouping and those 15 years and under. Miss Jean Sloan was judged winner in the former group, while Barbara McKenzie topped the junior ladies.

Eddie Cyre of Legal came up with the lucky raffle ticket, winning an electric frying pan.

TEN YEARS AGO

IN THE FARMERS' OWN FACTORY
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Displaced the One-Way

THE DISKER

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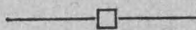
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THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL

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Handling Resolutions And A New Junior Project

By Mrs. Pansy Molen, F.U.A. Secretary

We know that a number of the locals are doubtful about the way resolutions should be handled which are passed at their meetings. The Board of Directors at their recent meeting set up a committee to draw up recommendations on the handling of resolutions. The board approved of the following:

1. All local resolutions should be presented to sub-district convention, if at all possible. Such resolutions, if passed, shall be presented to the District Convention. Resolutions defeated at these conventions shall receive no further consideration.
2. Resolutions shall be identified only by the name of the last body passing the same.
3. No local shall send a resolution for consideration at the annual convention, direct to central office, but must send it for consideration to a sub-district or district convention.
4. Local resolutions passed after the district convention must be channelled through the district board or executive.
5. Resolutions dealing with the same subject will be consolidated under one heading and listed numerically by the provincial Resolutions Committee
6. Only one resolution, either pro or con, dealing with an identical matter will be printed.
7. Resolutions shall deal with one subject only, shall have a proper heading and shall be directed to only one governing body.
8. There shall be only one resolution to a sheet of paper when presented to any resolutions committee.
9. Resolutions presented to sub-district or district conventions should be moved by the sponsoring local, if at all possible.
10. Notwithstanding the foregoing regulations, any matter may be presented from the floor of any convention with the consent of that delegate body.
11. Resolutions must reach central office at least two days prior to the annual convention with the understanding that further resolutions on urgent matters may be accepted on the recommendation of the Farmers' Union of Alberta Executive or Board of Directors.

12. Resolutions committee will have the power to screen or consolidate resolutions. Locals will be notified why resolutions are rejected.
13. No local will have the right to forward resolutions, on other than local matters, directly to the provincial or federal government.
14. Regulations covering sub-districts shall be deemed to apply to the Farm Women's Union of Alberta conferences.
15. Information in preambles to resolutions should be checked and re-checked.

We hope that these will be helpful to you at future meetings. If followed we feel certain they will be.

GATE SIGNS

The Junior F.U.A. have decided to sell gate signs this year to help finance their activities. They are made of 20 gauge steel with letters embossed and are covered with a high grade enamel baked on, and should last for many years. The sign is 4 inches wide with letters 2½ inches high.

They will sell at \$2.00 each. Any local selling the signs will retain 20 percent commission for selling them.

We hope the senior locals will assist the juniors by selling these signs. It takes about three weeks to get delivery on them. When you order, send the names and addresses along with \$2.00 for each sign to Central Office. We will order signs and mail them to you or the persons ordering them, (whichever you prefer) as soon as we receive delivery.

Let's all get behind our juniors.

They will not be entering the Calgary Stampede Queen Contest.

FARM SURVEY SHOWS WHEAT GROWING EXPENSIVE

How many farmers have wondered how much it costs them to grow a bushel of wheat on their land? A group of farmers at Kindersley, in west-central Saskatchewan, tried to find the answer for themselves. With the aid of qualified technical advisers they conducted surveys in 1953 and '54, covering all the main factors that make up production costs.

(Because the type of farming and soil conditions at the survey point are comparable to those of many

areas in Alberta, some of their findings may prove of interest to farmers in this province).

The survey was conducted on 77 farms within the Kindersley School Unit, 23 of which ranged in size up to three quarters, 45 composed of three to six quarters, and nine over six quarters. Average number of cultivated acres was 694, average cropped acreage 384. Most of the farmers had a small sideline in livestock or poultry.

A published summary of the 1954 report showed the average cost of raising a bushel of wheat to be \$1.16, allowing nothing for labor or management skills. When \$3,000 was added for the operator's labor and management, the cost rose to \$1.60. Yield average was 20 bushels per acre on summerfallow and 14 on stubble, grades No. 3 and 4 Northern.

In the light of conditions for that year, farmers concluded that few in their area could satisfactorily borrow money to become established, finance operations or expand. Their reasoning was based on an average farm capital investment return which gave them only one percent. (This rate was arrived at when allowing the previously quoted figure for labor and management skills).

BRIEFS PRESENTED AT FREIGHT HEARING

Vigorous opposition to proposed increase in domestic grain freight rates was expressed by western farm organizations at a recent hearing in Vancouver before the Board of Transport Commissioners.

Briefs argued that the railways' application for a 10 percent increase on domestic grain haulage would aggravate the current grain problem. Movement of domestic grain is considerable, they contended, and a hike in rates could well upset the feed and milling markets at this crucial time.

In view of prairie agriculture's steadily deteriorating position, the briefs maintained that further cost impositions would be most impractical and would prove harmful to the whole country.

Among the farm organizations making official submissions were the Interprovincial Farm Union Council, Alberta Wheat Pool, Alberta Federation of Agriculture and United Grain Growers Ltd.

WHY PUBLIC POWER COSTS LESS

"The Tennessee Valley Authority in one day paid \$14 million to the U.S. Treasury retiring the last of its \$65 million bonded debt. In addition, TVA has paid \$10.5 million interest on

these bonds. Besides redeeming the bond issue, TVA is required to repay to the Treasury all the money appropriated for its power facilities. So far, TVA has repaid \$100 million. With the bond redemptions, TVA payments to the Treasury now total \$165 million."

That news, reported widely in the press, is significant, for two reasons: First, because it refutes the Power Trust propaganda that TVA is "subsidized" by the Treasury. Second, because it helps explain why TVA and other Public-owned systems can and do sell electric power cheaper than private utility companies.

The latter never pay off their bonds. On the contrary, their bonded debt constantly rises. Why? Because utility companies are bossed by investment bankers in Wall Street and other financial centers. These bankers make big profits by selling bonds. Naturally, they want more bonds to sell, not fewer.

If TVA were a private power company, it would issue at least \$65 million new bonds to replace the old bonds it has paid off. Then TVA would have to continue paying good interest, on top of the 10.5 million interest it paid in the past. Interest money can come from only one source—the consumers who buy the power.

Like TVA, other public-owned systems pay off their bonds. That's one big reason why public power costs less.—LABOR

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FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP RECORD

	Feb. Men	To Date Men	Feb. Women	To Date Women	Feb. Assoc.	To Date Assoc.	Feb. Jrs.	To Date Jrs.	To Date Total
DISTRICT 1	117	1354	54	364	---	---	36	224	1942
DISTRICT 2	112	1372	30	412	---	1	21	302	2087
DISTRICT 3	118	1517	35	438	---	1	32	272	2228
DISTRICT 4	173	1922	35	573	---	1	38	477	2973
DISTRICT 5	159	1384	53	492	---	2	45	353	2231
DISTRICT 6	196	2591	87	1086	---	5	70	640	4322
DISTRICT 7	288	2449	79	787	1	3	35	450	3689
DISTRICT 8	103	1928	26	532	---	---	13	284	2744
DISTRICT 9	186	2136	68	650	1	4	39	324	3114
DISTRICT 10	418	2341	84	569	4	14	44	234	3158
DISTRICT 11	102	896	6	310	---	5	8	131	1342
DISTRICT 12	78	1982	44	792	---	8	5	304	3086
DISTRICT 13	37	577	14	238	---	3	6	87	905
DISTRICT 14	229	1488	86	449	---	1	41	223	2161
TOTAL	2316	23937	703	7692	6	48	433	4305	35982

Open Forum

Letters for publication from members and subscribers only in The Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the pen name of the sender must accompany the letter. **A recent Board of Directors' ruling limits letters to 300 words** and those longer cannot be accepted. Readers are asked to observe this change. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

The Organized Farmer,

Mr. Editor:

I read with interest Mr. Wear's letter in the February issue re "Farmers in Politics". I have never met Mr. Bruce Hutchinson nor do I remember any part that Mr. Hutchinson ever played in farmer politics. I have no axe to grind, and I am on my 75th year of age. As to Mr. Hutchinson's book I can only say that he has been wrongly informed. In support of my contention, I may say that I called the first mass meeting, which was held at Shaunavon, in Maple Creek constituency, in 1916. I acted as a delegate to the convention and we elected Mr. J. A. Maharg who, at that time, was president of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers Association. Mr. Maharg was the first Farmer Member to sit in the House of Commons. The cause was the high cost of farm equipment, plus the Hon. Geo. Foster's move to have the price of wheat set at 83c per bush. at the terminals. The Hon. Geo. claimed "it was enough for any farmer". Owing to Mr. Maharg's stubborn resistance, the matter was carried over until the U.S.A. set their price for

wheat, which was \$2.00 per bushel. That meant \$2.00 for Canadian wheat.

There were many other causes which were too numerous to mention. As to Mr. Crerar, it is well known by the old timers that Mr. Crerar, prior to the election that was to follow, moved across the House of Commons to join up with Mr. Maharg. Mr. Crerar was hoping to become leader of the farmer movement. He failed. In 1916 the farmers were well organized across the west. I attended the convention at Swift Current. In the election that followed the Farmers sent 66 members to Ottawa as a balance of power against the King government.

As to Mr. Hutchinson's statement as to meeting Mr. Henry Wise Wood in a beer hall, I can only say that such statements are ridiculous and childish, even foolish. The facts are still remembered, especially the fact that Mr. Wood and Mr. Crerar were never on friendly terms. Mr. Crerar wanted to assume leadership and bring the farmers back under the thumb of the old Tory-Grit political machine. Mr. Wood wanted government by the people, for the people, with no dictating leaders. Mr. Wood did attend a convention at Winnipeg called by Mr. Crerar. The breach was so deep between them that I have no recollection of Mr. Wood ever attending another meeting called by Mr. Crerar. While I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Wood, I can say that I had considerable correspondence with him during that period, especially so on farmer politics. Mr. Wood, through his ability to read the handwriting on the wall, confined his activities to Alberta. Mr. Crerar held the support of a small group in Manitoba and was able to return as a member for a Manitoba

constituency. He never gave up his ambition to become leader of the farmers. The farmers, as independents, gave him little or no support. So he resigned his seat at Ottawa and dropped out of politics for a time. In the meantime he called another convention at Winnipeg and supported Robert Forke as leader of a little group which were called Liberal-Progressives. If my memory is correct, I think this little group of Liberal-Progressives consisted of seven members, and Robert Forke was their leader. Mr. Forke had no more success in winning over the farmer independents than Mr. Crerar had.

However, there is much that could be told. But I think that a book that contains such statements would be a tonic to the farmers and force them to think for themselves. I will close for the time, saying that Mr. Crerar and Mr. Forke were both appointed to the senate by Mackenzie King.

Yours very sincerely,

Bill Carson,
Turner Valley, Alta.

The Organized Farmer,

Mr. Editor:

Under the heading "Frank Talk On Farming" the January 14th, 1956, issue of the Edmonton Journal gives the A.F.A. president Roy C. Marler credit for revealing the true position of the Alberta farmers. The Journal is quoting the, by now, famous statement made by Mr. Marler at Ottawa, October 11, 1955, and at a recently held A.F.A. convention in Calgary: "The farmer today may be short of cash, but his net worth is higher than it has ever been before and today more farmers own their own land than at any time in his. tory".

The president of the Alberta Wheat Pool, Ben S. Plumer, is also praised in the same article for giving some "true facts": "The government knows when we go to them and tell them we haven't anything and no prospects of getting anything that this is pure exaggeration". It appears that this statement made by Mr. Plumer, according to the Journal, should not be challenged. It may be better to ignore it completely.

The Winnipeg Free Press in its January 18, 1956, issue also publishes Mr. Marler's statement under the heading "Farmers Better Off—Marler" and then produces a good picture of Mr. Marler, thus insuring its readers of the absolute truth of this allegation.

The official organ of Alberta Co-ops, "The

Co-op News" seems to hold a different opinion of the farmers' position. On the front page of its January issue, it wishes its readers "A Happy New Year", and under the heading "Year of Disaster For Western Farmers", it gives its version of the farmers' troubles.

Jake Schulz, interprovincial union chairman, in his address at the last F.U.A. convention stated that the farmers financially are just one step above the all-time low of the thirties.

It is rather confusing to the public when spokesmen for agriculture make such contradictory statements.

If the farmers, according to Mr Marler, are better off today than ever before, why are they leaving the farms by the thousands and seeking employment in other industries? The farm population is steadily decreasing and the family-farm will soon be a thing of the past in Western Canada if this trend continues.

While some Alberta farmers today enjoy the comfort of decent homes with up-to-date conveniences, and some up-to-date mortgages, too many of the farmers and their families live in houses and under conditions which in towns and cities would be termed "slums". Anyone travelling on the back-roads through the country, will know that this is no exaggeration.

Mr. Marler claims that the farmer's net worth is higher than it has ever been before. He does not explain that this in many instances is a result of the farmers depriving themselves of a decent standard of living which most workers in urban areas now are taking for granted. The farmers who lived through "the hungry thirties" and the hard war years in many cases are preferring to stay out of debt and to stabilize their financial position at the expense of their own and their families' comfort and health (hence their higher net worth). Mr. Marler may not know, or is ignoring the fact. He should not ignore the statistical facts, however, that the index of farm prices has fallen from 294.3 in 1951 to 225.9 in 1955 or 25 percent, while the farm cost has risen from 237.7 to 241.3 in the same period.

The explanation of Mr. Marler's statement, which the A.F.A. published in "The Organized Farmer" in the December issue may satisfy some farmers. It is of little value, however, as it does nothing to change the distorted picture of the farmers' position already firmly imprinted, through his statement, in the public mind.

F.U.A. District No. 3 Board.
Ivan Nielsen, Sec.-Treas.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Mrs. C. T. Armstrong

Ottawa Delegates

It was an interesting experience to represent Alberta on the C.F.A. delegation to present our briefs to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers. A lot of study was put into our presentation, which was in three briefs, one on the general problems of agriculture across Canada, one on farm credit, and another on radio and Television. A further brief has been presented by C.F.A. to the Gordon Commission on the future of Canadian agriculture. It has been hailed as one of the most comprehensive forward looks, and was discussed along with the Labour brief and three others on television recently.

Two days later the I.F.U.C. presented their brief, Mr. Platt and I represented our Farmers' Union. I believe that a report has already gone out to the locals, so repetition is not necessary. My only comment would be, that I think it is good for Alberta to be represented in these delegations, for we must recognize that we have prairie problems that only our own people seem to comprehend. Let us continue to study these things, and be prepared to give leadership in the matter of solving them.

A.C.W.W. Dates

Tentative plans have been made for the visit to Alberta of Mrs. Berry of Australia, President of A.C.W.W. A fuller report will be given later, but here are the dates and places of meetings:

May 31 — Lethbridge Community Centre.

June 1 — afternoon, Olds Agricultural College.

June 1 — evening, Lacombe, possibly at Experimental Station or Community Centre.

June 2 — Vermilion School of Agriculture.

June 4 — Fairview School of Agriculture.

June 5 — Westlock.

Keep these dates in mind so that as many of our farm women as possible can attend. Mrs. Berry is a very fine woman and will have a very fine message for us, so I hope we can welcome her in every part of the province.

Short Course and Meetings

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce recently held a two day Short Course and Seed Fair. Mr. Platt addressed the men and I spoke to the women. We met many of our members there and was glad to see that the bad weather had not completely isolated our farmers. In some areas it has been necessary to cancel proposed meetings, as a result much work has to be done to plan for other dates. It is regrettable that much time has been lost this winter for getting together, however we hope that conditions will improve so that a few can be held before spring work begins.

SO YOU ARE A MEMBER?

By S. O. Hillrud, U. of A. Extension Department

During the past few years, leadership has been so stressed that we have forgotten its relation to membership. Leadership is a special activity of membership. Tead claims that leadership is the activity of persuading people to co-operate toward some objective they come to find desirable. Admitting the value and the need to delegate much of the work of an organization to devoted officers and an efficient staff, the fact remains that some responsibilities cannot be delegated.

Group Action

Such an advance means membership training and a knowledge of how to use organization. First there is a study of the aims, goals and objectives. Just as members of a curling team must develop skills as individuals before they can win ends and team skills before they can win games, and must know something of strategy before they can win a series, so must the member of the F.U.A. He must develop in himself, and encourage in others, the discipline of regular attendance and effective participation. This will enable him to understand the aims of the local, know when a goal has been achieved, and recognize the strategy behind the selection of a new objective.

Attendance Basic

Attendance is basic. You must be there if you are going to develop skills and understanding. There is a body of belief which builds up among the active membership that determines tactics. If a farmer believes he is basically a laborer, he will accept labor tactics such as a strike. If he regards himself as a producer in a glutted market, his attitude is somewhat different towards a consuming public. The men and the women who are among those present shape the body of belief.

Knowledge And Skill

Then there are reasons for criticism of existing conditions and seeking to change them. The other fellow has ideas too. A knowledge of the patterns of discussion will move your conversation from the level of contentious argument to the levels of sound judgment. You must have knowledge and skill before you can defend your organization, justify its objectives and its methods.

A study of the development of your successful F.U.A. leaders indicates that they went through in-service-training. They started by studying the needs of their community and the farm problems generally. They moved and spoke to motions, they accepted positions on committees, acted as convenors of committees, attended short courses and workshops, and have been your delegates to district and provincial con-

ventions. Now they man your standing committees at the local, district, and provincial level.

Change And Learning

It is possible to have done all these things and not profited by them, but any man who accepts the fact of continuous change, accepts the need for life-long learning. Such an attitude must lead to creative thinking. You cannot consider the fact that power machinery takes, on the average, a quarter of the farm income of \$4,000, without realizing that major adjustments must be made in farm management and farm living. You cannot read in the last issue of "The Organized Farmer" that your board has set up a committee to prepare a brief on television broadcasting, without doing a bit of thinking of your own.

No Road Maps

During the coming months, your organization is planning a series of conferences to speed up the development of some essential skills. It has been a particular source of satisfaction to those taking part, to observe the willingness of those attending to launch out into the fields of creative thinking which is a mark of leadership ability. Of course, they wanted to know what the staff wanted first, but they soon realized that if they were to be out in front, they could not copy, and they could not take too much advice. All they were given was an objective to serve as compass direction. There were no road maps, so they blazed their own trail and came up with original answers. That is proof that the F.U.A. has more than enough leadership for all its requirements. The question that remains is, will the people with leadership ability, now hidden among the membership, accept the challenge?

Canadian Association of Consumers

The Canadian Association of Consumers, a non-sectarian and non-political organization of more than 17,000 members and supported by 16 national organizations aims to inform consumers of what they should know for their protection and wise buying through the press, radio, and bulletins issued monthly to members.

In 1954 consumer buying in Canada exceeded 15½ billion dollars. About half of this sum was spent on food, clothing and household goods and operation; consumer purchases which are largely the responsibility of women. The Canadian Association of Consumers attempts to help women in this responsibility and to enable them to make the best use of their consumer dollar. Too, it is an intermediary through which legitimate complaints may be channelled.

This organization has been responsible for bringing about improvements in grading and labelling of goods by manufacturers. They will

continue to press for improvements in various phases of consumer buying, such as standardization of sizes in clothing, specified weights on packaged soaps or detergents, etc. Memberships of One Dollar (\$1.00) may be forwarded to Mrs. W. J. Edwards, 10952 - 69 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

Find Fault With Proposed Elections Act

The executive of the Farmers' Union of Alberta, meeting in Edmonton recently, expressed sharp criticism of the provincial government's apparent determination to abolish preferential balloting and revert to the old X-system of voting.

Union leaders, gathered in session to discuss F.U.A. policy and administration, termed the government's proposed amendments to the Elections Act both ill-timed and unadvisable. If a change is indicated, and no hint of such a desire on the part of even a single local had reached the union headquarters, the executive body felt that the issue should have been submitted to public scrutiny for some time rather than being introduced in the current legislative sittings like "a bolt from out of the blue".

The present system of marking ballots is far more democratic than the outmoded X-system, the Union executive maintains. Where more than two candidates are in the running, the X-system could often result in one such candidate being elected with far less than a majority of the total votes cast. Such a negative outcome would bring with it the result of thwarting the voters' wishes rather than giving them true expression.

Farm Union officials feel that spoiled ballots can be cut to a minimum by having poll officials properly inform electors on how to mark ballots under the preferential system.

(The foregoing is a prepared statement released to news outlets following the executive meeting.—Ed.)

Building Fund Donations

Previously acknowledged	\$41,887.55
Mrs. L. G. Bray	5.00
E. A. Johnson	1.00
Stony Rapid FUA No. 754	17.00
J. Melnek	5.00
Sawllwell FUA No. 1031	27.00
E. Sherratt	10.00
Volin FUA No. 148	4.00
	<hr/>
	\$41,956.55

NEED INSURANCE . . . ?

See Your Local U.G.G. Agent OR
Special U.G.G. Insurance
Representative

More than half a million dollars is paid out every day in Canada by insurance companies in settling fire, automobile and casualty insurance claims.

United Grain Growers Securities Ltd. — a wholly owned subsidiary of United Grain Growers Ltd. — acts as general agent for a number of outstanding insurance companies, recognized for both strength and integrity, who offer protection of every type except "Life Insurance".

- U.G.G. insurance claims are promptly investigated—settlement is made without delay.
- U.G.G. Securities has paid over \$5,000,000 to policy holders against claims submitted.

— □ —
Farmers who need insurance should discuss their requirements with their local U.G.G. Agent — or special U.G.G. Securities representative in their district.
— □ —



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HERE'S WHY IT IS

ALBERTA POOL ELEVATORS FOR ALBERTA FARMERS

BECAUSE POOL ELEVATORS GIVE SERVICE AT COST

All earnings above the cost of operation are returned to the member patrons in cash or Wheat Pool assets. Including the 1954-55 distribution, Wheat Pool members have received \$7.3 million in cash and \$11.8 million in reserves for a total of \$19.1 million in patronage dividends.

BECAUSE POOL ELEVATORS GIVE OWNERSHIP THROUGH PATRONAGE

Every member patron acquires ownership in the organization in proportion to his deliveries by accepting part of his patronage dividend in reserves. The corresponding cash is used to purchase the reserves of members no longer engaged in farming. In this process the ownership of the Wheat Pool always revolves into the hands of those who use it. The assets of the organization have a conservative depreciated book value of almost \$16 million and are owned entirely by the patron members.

BECAUSE POOL ELEVATORS GIVE CONTROL OF THE ORGANIZATION THROUGH PATRONAGE

To become a Wheat Pool member a farmer must first be a patron of a Pool elevator. As members, patrons control the policies of the Alberta Wheat Pool, regulate the handling of their grain and influence national marketing policy, through elected delegates.

BECAUSE POOL ELEVATORS GIVE THE TYPE OF SERVICE PRESCRIBED BY THE DELEGATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PATRON MEMBERS

No other grain handling organization offers these inducements to producers to use its facilities.

